



# WRITING THE STORY OF ARIZONA'S FUTURE

## Public Safety Initiatives

### Taking Away the Tools of the Trade: Drop houses

Arizona has become the leading state in the country in confronting America's broken borders, thanks to Governor Napolitano's efforts to use state law to take away the tools of the illegal smuggling trade. Efforts to crack down on fraudulent IDs, stolen vehicles, and wire transfers used by human and drug smugglers are working. Now, Governor Napolitano is proposing new measures to go after the drop houses used for human smuggling in Arizona. This effort has two main parts:

- *Strengthen the law to go after property managers.* Right now, law enforcement can go after the owners of properties used as drop houses. But oftentimes it's not the owners, but instead a middleman – the property manager – who deals face-to-face with potential renters and rents properties knowing they will be used in a smuggling operation. The Governor is proposing that we strengthen the law to allow law enforcement to more easily go after this middleman.
- *Cracking down on drop houses through agency cooperation.* Today, the Governor issued an Executive Order requiring the Departments of Real Estate and Public Safety to compile and share data and other information on drop houses, to work with each other on criminal investigations, and report to the Governor and the Legislature on possible other changes to make in the law.

### Putting RICO Funds to Effective Use

Last year, the Legislature did not approve enough funding to effectively enforce Arizona's new employer sanctions law, and Arizona could be putting certain types of law enforcement funding to better use.

Each year, Arizona prosecutors receive millions of dollars in penalties from criminal rackets broken up under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. This money sometimes goes to fund important law enforcement initiatives – for instance, in last year's budget, RICO money helped fund a new DPS crime lab for Southern Arizona.

Too often, though, these funds go to TV advertisements that amount to little more than publicity for an elected official. Governor Napolitano proposes that the state pass a law dedicating this money to the core functions of law enforcement – such as body armor for officers, or to hire investigators. Part of this pool should also be directed to pay for enforcement of the state's employer sanctions law. This measure would ensure that in a tight budget year, law enforcement resources are being used efficiently and responsibly.